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budget. In an attempt to address this problem many communities have resorted to using contracts which penalize an individual for leaving before a certain period of time. However, if the officer does leave early, in many cases the community must take the person to court to collect the fines. In some cases the cost of collecting or costs of prosecution or bringing the person to court well outweigh the amounts that they would recover otherwise. Plus, this process has cost time and inconvenience to the city, county or state. Many officers have gone to larger communities for excitement or lower (sic) wages, leaving a small town to foot the bill for their training. However, this is not a problem which is limited to small towns only, or just to municipalities. Sometimes the county and the state may be in the same situation. LB 252 addresses this problem by requiring that when one governmental entity hires a police officer who is on a payroll of a different governmental entity then the hiring entity must reimburse the first employer for all or a percentage of the training costs paid by the first employer. This new requirement would apply to any municipality, county or state. The bill would only cover police officers who were trained at one of the police training schools on or after September 1 of 1998, and only if the second entity hired the officer within five years after graduating from the police training school. The police training school, which would offer 12 weeks basic training, are listed in the bill. The amount that the hiring entity would have to pay is set out in the bill as the training costs. The committee amendment, which I support, would define training costs at \$5,000. The amount of the training costs that would have to be paid decreases on a graduated basis over a five-year period. If the law enforcement officer is hired within the first year of their graduation from police training school then the hiring entity must reimburse the first employer for 100 percent of the \$5,000 training costs. If the officer is hired during the second year of graduation, then the amount that the entity would be reimbursed to the initial employer is reduced by 80 percent, and so on down. As I said before, the committee amendments would change the definition of training costs to \$5,000. I believe that this amount is an improvement over the original bill and makes a good...and it makes good, practical sense. The bill also addresses the situation where an officer moves between two or more jobs within a five-year period, and the bill would require that a third